

Remarks

This amendment is submitted to be fully responsive to the final Official Action mailed November 17, 2008. It is further submitted that this amendment is timely filed within the three-month shortened-statutory period for reply. Should any fees be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Kagan Binder Deposit Account No. 50-1775 and thereafter notify us of the same. Reconsideration of all outstanding grounds of the rejection and allowance of the subject application are believed in order and respectfully requested.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 2 and 48. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 32, and 39 are amended as set forth above to include the subject matter of dependent claim 2 and are believed in condition for allowance. Claim 2 is thus cancelled and claim 48 is amended to depend from claim 1. Additionally, claims 2, 22, and 28 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

In the Official Action claims 1, 10, 49-51, and 54 are rejected as anticipated by US Patent No. 5,271,553 to Kim. Claim 44 is rejected as being unpatentable over Kim. Claims 1, 32-37, 47, and 49-53 are rejected as unpatentable over Kim in view of US Patent No. 6,612,484 to Rawlings et al. Claims 22, 28, and 39 are rejected as unpatentable over WIPO document WO 93/19991 to Husnu, US Patent No. 759,382 to Klugh and US Patent No. 1,245,447 to Felenchak. Because claims 1, 32, and 39 are amended to recite subject matter indicated as allowable, the anticipation and obviousness rejections are thus believed overcome by such amendment. Withdrawal of the anticipation and obviousness rejections is believed appropriate and respectfully requested.

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims and the present application are now in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, at the Examiner's convenience, should the Examiner have any questions regarding this communication or the present patent application.

Respectfully Submitted,

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